

JULY 1996 VOL.V, NO.1

LIBRARY

LOOKOUT

## LIBRARY LOOKOUT

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Issued Quarterly by the West Virginia  
Library Commission  
Dora Ruth Parks, Executive Secretary

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Vol. V, No. I

### BOOKMOBILE FUND TOTALS \$1.060 TO DATE

Contributions toward the demonstration bookmobile since the April issue of Library Lookout are:

Clarksburg Library Staff and Trustees	\$ 45
West Virginia State Federation of Women's Clubs (Second Contribution)	100
Martinsburg A. A. U. W.	5
Huntington A. A. U. W.	25
Clarksburg Columbian Club	5

There have been various comments from over the state as to the type of bookmobile best suited to our needs. What size truck would you advise-- 1/2-ton, 3/4-ton, or 1-ton?

The fund is not complete for any unit yet. Has your organization had an opportunity to participate in this activity?

Recently there have been three requests such as this: "We are having a meeting during the week of \_\_\_\_\_. Can you come to work with us? How about a bookmobile to show the group?"

### IN BUFFALO

There were nine West Virginia Librarians in attendance at the American Library Association meeting in June. It was a good reunion after five non-convention years. We saw Miss Johnson and Mr. Bennett. Each wanted to know about many West Virginia people.

In Buffalo, the pre-conference institute for library extension workers gave a bird's eye view of state surveys and plans for New York, Ohio, Michigan, Massachusetts, and Connecticut. During discussion periods, representatives from several other state agencies also spoke briefly of state plans in states other than those on the program. The outstanding conclusion was inevitable. The A. L. A. is attacking the problem of lack of public library facilities in the country by intelligent research. It is evident that through this approach and the growing consciousness of the problem on the part of laymen, who are the potential or real library patrons, public library service will not continue to be a thing which "just grewed" like Topsy. But there is a real challenge in this approach. Will the public library movement in America be able to define its objective within the community so clearly that every citizen will look upon this agency as a fortress dedicated to his informational needs? Growing consciousness on the part of the layman must be nurtured until it expands into a vision for a whole state. This vision must be gained in every community and in every state.

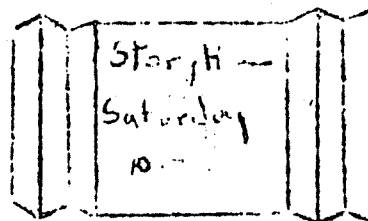
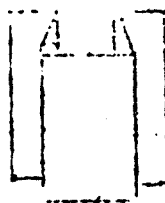
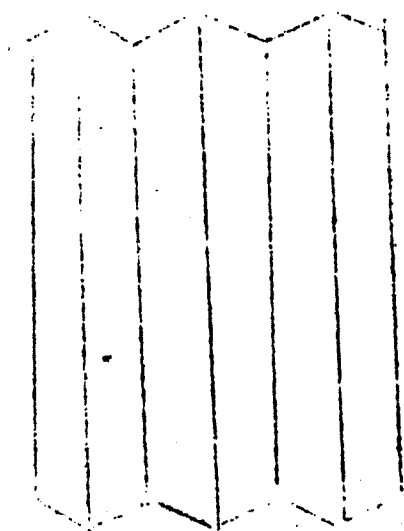
Mr. Paul Howard was in Buffalo for the entire conference. His report to State Federal Relations Committees indicated increasing popularity of the Library Demonstration Bill (described in April Library Lookout). He reported the Senate hearing

as encouraging. That body proposed that the demonstration period be increased from four to five years and that the amount to be allocated on a matching basis be increased from \$50,000 per year to \$75,000 per year for a five year period. Mr. Howard emphasized again the importance of interpreting to "the folks back home" the fact that the Bill carries with it, minimum federal control. Under its terms, each state library commission presents a plan to the U. S. Commissioner of Education. This plan must be directed toward rural library service and toward a long time state plan for complete coverage. The funds would be turned over to the state treasurer and administered by the state library commission.

New ideas for displays--Miss Janet K. Zimmerman who spoke at one of the Public Relations clinics suggested these ideas for displays:

1. Plan a year's schedule of displays
  - a. Build around central themes
  - b. Make schedules flexible enough to take care of emergencies.
2. Be sure your display is at least forty-eight inches from the floor. This attracts attention because materials are at eye level.
3. Have one central idea around which the display is built.
4. Use a limited number of books. If you need to display a number of books, use panels or several tables or windows, with a few books in each and arrange in sequence if necessary.
5. Blocks of wood may be covered, or painted and books placed on these to get them on different levels.

6. Wedges may be used to break the monotony of a window. These can be made of paper or cardboard. They are folded and may be of varying sizes. Captions may be lettered on a poster size of these.

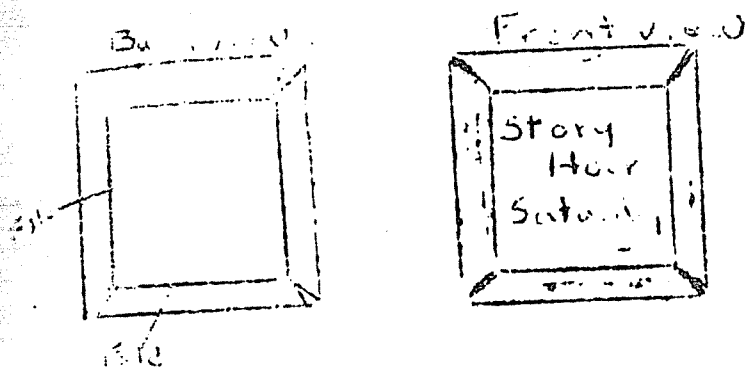


7. Use window paper for back grounds and to add color. These are better than wallpaper.

8. Lettering should be neat but casual. Do not make posters seem labored, Use paper alphabets from a dime store. These may be pulled off poster and used again. Wooden alphabets are also very good, and plastic ones are now available.

9. Place your lettering on your poster paper. Place in the sun. Remove letters when poster has faded enough to make lettering stand out.

10. Shadow-box effects are obtained by cutting squares or oblongs in this manner.



Paper plates with rims colored, create same effect.

If a bookshelf is lined with paper, you get the same effect.

Mrs. Gretchen Schenk was one of the speakers early in the program. Her comment that "whatever we do is public relations," is so accurate that all librarians need to take note. All staff members contribute to our public relations program either by performance or lack of performance. Public relations is not something which can be centered in one person behind one desk. Our public judges the library by its latest contact with any representative of the library.

AMONG WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES, LIBRARIANS,  
AND LIBRARY COMMISSION BORROWERS

Grantsville: "The Grantsville Women's Club will be returning the 510 books we have borrowed and we would like to know if we could have another loan about July 15 for the same amount. The ones we have have been well read. We would like a few more children's books this time.

"We certainly do appreciate the service the Library Commission offers to small libraries such as ours. The people are becoming more library conscious and I hope the time will soon come when our library will become self-supporting."

Pennsboro: "Please send me some books on interior decorating; in particular color schemes and combinations."

Ronceverte: "I am contemplating the construction of a commercial greenhouse and I would like to have the latest authoritative information available before undertaking it. Greenhouses, Their Construction and Equipment, by W. T. Weight has been recommended and I would like to read also the book, Success on the Small Farm, by Hoyden S. Pearson."

Pt. Pleasant: "As a member of the Pt. Pleasant Junior Women's Club, I am chairman of the Library Committee. We, of the club, need your assistance and guidance, concerning state aid for the Mason County Library."

Our Answer: "It is with much regret that we must tell you that we have not as yet been granted any state aid in West Virginia. This will be one of our major aims in our legislative program this year, and we shall need the active support of your club and every organized group in West Virginia."

Shepherdstown: "A group of college students, interested in children's literature, will visit our library next Saturday, June 29."

"We are planning an exhibit of outstanding books for children and will also feature approved lists."

"Could you help us by supplying the following:

- A list of Newbery awards,
- A list of Caldecott awards,
- A pamphlet sent out sometime ago by the Commission telling what books not to include in children's collections and why,
- Any book or books on selecting children's books,
- A description of the work of the Commission,
- Pamphlets on selecting children's books,
- And in order to spread some important but depressing information, a chart or list showing the standing of states in regard to library affairs.
- One of your maps showing the libraries in the state."

Kanawha County Library "Annual Report":

"The past fiscal year--May 1, 1945 to April 30, 1946--has seen the continued growth of the Kanawha County Public Library in many respects.... Recorded requests for reference assistance numbered 16,050, a gain of 729 over last year's questions.

"This growth is to be attributed to many things: to an increase in population; to a heartening increased appropriation by the Kanawha County Board of Education; to the return from the war of many readers; to the skill and energy and belief of the staff; and to other things less easy to frame in words. Library usage, of course, cannot be measured exactly: it is part of that many-faceted intangible we call a cultural pattern, and the influence, the effect, of books remains as yet beyond the interpretation of the statistician. But in spite of this, we believe in the worth of books: the history of the United States embraces a steady and unrelenting advance in the number of



tax-supported libraries. It is true that completeness is still only a distant goal, especially in West Virginia, where some 63 per cent of the population is without library service, but even so the picture is brighter than it was a decade ago. The West Virginia State Library Commission is in a stronger position today than in the past, and throughout the state there is evidence that a far wider coverage of library service will be reached...."

Concerning the future, Mr. Butler continues, "The problem of additional shelf-space is rapidly approaching the critical stage.... Other aspects of expansion--the establishment of branches and stations, the amplification of our services to include media for education other than books, such as films, recordings, pictures, must also be considered in the not too distant future. The transiency of personnel during the immediate past has hampered the development of many aspects of our work: routines of operation, for instance, have been carried on without change simply because those who have been concerned with them have not remained with the Library long enough to make proper study and revision. It is hoped that in the future conditions will permit a desirable and necessary stabilization of staff, so that the Library will be enabled to widen and to strengthen its influence in the community. Today a multitude of problems press themselves upon the men and women of every community: important decisions must be made, and not the least of our responsibilities is the responsibility to see that the reading public of Kanawha County has the opportunity to educate and inform itself as to the nature of the problem and their possible solutions...."

Ohio County Public Library - Miss Elizabeth Meek, who is in charge of the music library, has submitted the following report on activities.

"The newly opened collection of 2,500 recordings at the Ohio County Public Library is proving that people in the Wheeling vicinity enjoy "Rhapsody in Blue" and "Tannhauser" equally well. Requests filled range from Lynn Fontanne reading "The White Cliffs of Dover" to the "Donkey Serenade."

"The record library includes both classical and semi-classical music which may be borrowed for home use or played in the library listening room.

"In addition to the records, the collection offers music for piano, violin and other instruments librettos, anthems, and books about music and musicians. For listeners who like to follow the score of the composition to which they are listening, the library has a number of miniature scores which may be borrowed with the recordings.

"The music department is open three days each week. Since June 4, the opening day, the total circulation numbers 1,029. The figures show that 687 records have circulated (without breakage thus far!). Three hundred and one have been played in the library, and 41 music books and scores have circulated. The visitors to the music rooms number 252.

"We invite all vacationing librarians to visit the library and see West Virginia's first record collection in a public library in action."

KNOW WEST VIRGINIA LIBRARIES

The library on the cover of this issue is the Moundsville Public Library. Mr. W. F. Dalzell, chairman of the library board, was kind enough to send us the following history:

"The first movement to create a free public library in Moundsville started in 1918, a few months before the close of World War I. Two years previous to this, several prominent citizens and a group of teachers, who called themselves the Teachers' Club, started a library and sustained it through private subscriptions. Every person who wished to use the library services was required to pay a yearly charge of \$1. This library club started in quarters on the second floor of one of the store buildings on Jefferson Avenue.

"In December, 1918, it was decided to petition Council for the privilege of submitting to the voters the question of authorizing the city to establish and maintain a free public library to be supported through taxation. In the election in March, 1919, the proposition was approved and in July of that year Mayor Dale Chaddock appointed the first Public Library Board of six members. On that first Board, appointed twenty-seven years ago, were three members who are still serving--Mrs. Frank Fulton, who was president of the Board for twenty-five years; Mrs. Evan Roberts; and James A. Sigafosse. The first librarian elected in 1919 was Mrs. Ida Hankins, who has served continuously in that position.

"It became necessary to change the location of the new public library in the fall of 1919, but fortunately convenient quarters were secured

at the present location, on the first floor of the K. of P. Building opposite the Court House. The public library opened with 1,200 volumes and now comprises 10,000. It possesses valuable files of local publications and an especially fine collection of West Virginia historical books. Last fall the library rooms were completely renovated and the shelving rearranged in order to provide better facilities in the limited space available at the present site.

"There is a great need for a permanent home for the Moundville Public Library. The city has acquired a fine site for this purpose through a recent bequest and a building fund has been started through several donations.

"The present Library Board is composed of the following citizens appointed by the Mayor: W. F. Dalzell, President; Delf Morona, Secretary; J. A. Sigafosse, Treasurer; Mrs. J. T. Fulton; Mrs. Evan Roberts; Miss Hallie Bonar; W. F. Curtis; L. R. Potts, Superintendent of Public Schools.

"As the city tax levy does not provide sufficient funds for maintaining the library and expanding the collection of books, it has been necessary to depend upon additional financial support from the several club organizations in the city. Steps have recently been taken to organize a Friends of the Library Club to help to strengthen the financial resources of the library and broaden its services within the community."

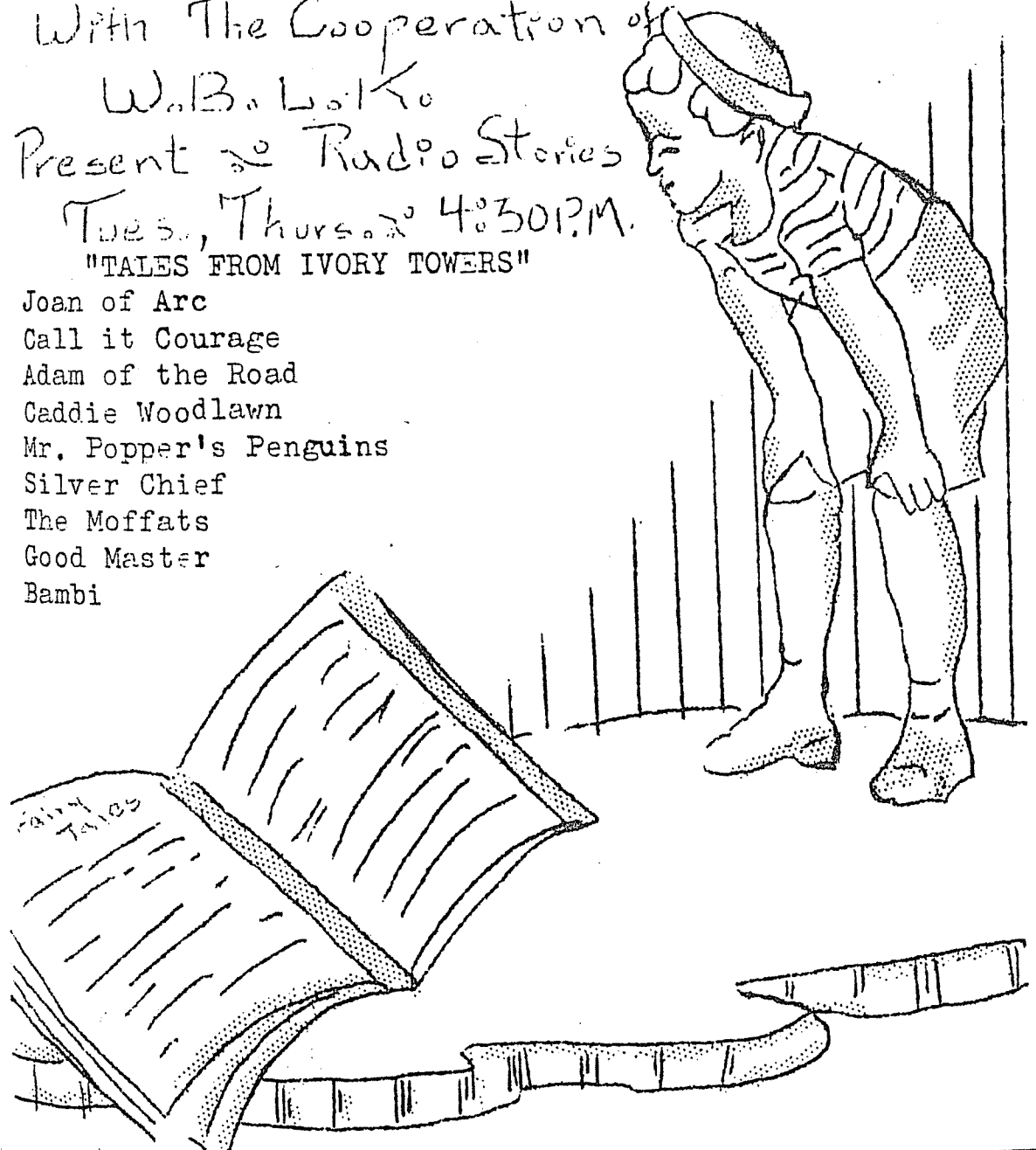
Have you read the article in Recreation, July, 1946, by Dorothy Waugh of the Montclair Public Library, called "Hobby At-Homes"?

The Clarksburg Public Library used this handbill to advertise story hours over the radio.

(These recordings are available from the Library Commission)

Your Public Library  
And The Dental Society  
With The Cooperation of  
W.B. Loko  
Present 2 Radio Stories  
Tues., Thurs. 4:30 P.M.  
"TALES FROM IVORY TOWERS"

Joan of Arc  
Call it Courage  
Adam of the Road  
Caddie Woodlawn  
Mr. Popper's Penguins  
Silver Chief  
The Moffats  
Good Master  
Bambi



FROM OUT OF STATE LIBRARIES

"The Cuyahoga County (Ohio) Library will welcome any gift, whether it be a single book, or a trust fund of several thousand dollars. If the donor so desires, he may designate a particular community within the county as beneficiary or he may prefer to make the gift without instruction as to its ultimate use.

"As is well-known, a gift to a library is deductible for income tax purposes, as a contribution up to fifteen per cent of adjusted gross income. This provision frequently results in the net cost of a gift to a donor being actually only a small fraction of the amount of the gift."

New Hampshire: "State Federation of Women's Clubs continues its interest in library extension service by voting at a fall meeting to purchase a new bookmobile for the Extension Division of the State Library, which will replace the one given by the Federation in 1940."

THANK YOU MR. KELLAM

The West Virginia Library Commission will feel very keenly that South Carolina's gain is West Virginia's loss when Mr. W. P. Kellam leaves for his new position as University Librarian next month. His contribution to library service in West Virginia deserves careful recognition. The Library Commission Board and staff will be joined by many others in wishing Mr. Kellam godspeed and much happiness to him and his family in their new home.

"The Miscellany" (West Virginia's A. A. U. W. periodical) included the following paragraphs in the June issue.

" S. 1920--H. R. 5742 "

"These bills to provide demonstrations of adequate public library service to people without it or inadequately served are now in committee where so much good legislation is buried.

"West Virginia, with 63 percent of the residents without library service, needs federal aid for showing how library service functions. If you agree that such service is vital in a democracy and that your state should be more adequately cared for, write to your congressmen urging them to get the bills out of committee where action can be taken."

LIBRARIES FOR THE YOUTH OF THE COMMUNITY

Mr. Dunbar, Chief, Library Service Division, U. S. Office of Education, writes:

"I am enclosing a copy of the leaflet, "A Youth Library in Every Community," which the Library Service Division prepared for the use at the national meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Chicago, June 17-21. Although we do not yet have the results of that meeting, we know that libraries for youth are likely to rank high on the list of proposed activities for the coming year."

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"It is much easier to recognize error than to find truth. Error is superficial and may be corrected; truth lies hidden in the depths."--Goethe

OUR BEST HUMAN INTEREST STORY OF THE QUARTER

On June 3, representatives of the four counties which comprise the northern panhandle met in Wellsburg to continue discussions of regional library service for the panhandle--discussions which were begun on May 6 at the Ohio County Public Library. There was participation from all four counties. From Hancock County came Dr. Lewis, the Presbyterian minister for Newell, and with him Larry Rush, a young veteran, who is also from Hancock County. The decision was reached that there should be a similar meeting in the upper part of Hancock County in July, so more people from that county could participate in a discussion of the advantages of such a regional service for Hancock County.

During the war, we kept hearing the story: "The boys are having access to good library service in camps. They will not be satisfied to come back to communities which do not have that service."

Larry Rush and Dr. Lewis assumed obligation of securing a meeting place for the Hancock meeting, for sending out invitations, and for getting a projector so the film "Library on Wheels" could be shown to the group. Larry's questions were so directed that it was evident, during the entire Wellsburg meeting, that he was visualizing such a service for his community. Shortly after the Wellsburg meeting Larry went to Chicago to work, but he continued correspondence with Dr. Lewis in which he assumed a share of the responsibility for arrangements for the meeting. One of those responsibilities was a \$3 fee for use of a room in which to hold the meeting. On the day of the meeting a letter from Larry to Dr. Lewis contained three one dollar bills. Here is one example of one of the many good things we may expect in our returning veterans. This is one example, also of what the returning veteran expects of his community.



Dear Miss Parks:

Under the chairmanship of Miss Althea Warren, I am serving on the A.L.A. Nominating Committee to select candidates for 1946-47 officers in the Association. I shall appreciate it if you will insert in the next issue of your library publication a statement to the effect that I shall be glad to receive suggestions regarding desirable candidates.

The following offices are to be filled:

First Vice President (President-elect for 1947-48)  
Second Vice President  
Treasurer  
Executive Board (two vacancies)  
Council (six vacancies)

The membership of the A.L.A. can be a great help in securing the best possible officers for 1946-47 by suggesting names of persons whose previous record and present ability qualify them for service as national officers.

Cordially yours,  
RALPH M. DUNBAR, Chief  
Library Service Division  
U. S. Office of Education  
Washington, D. C.

(The above letter was sent by Mr. Dunbar for publication in Library Lookout, please make your suggestions on this sheet and mail it to him at the above address).